Presence of Chinese Submarines in Indian Ocean

1024. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state : state :

(a) whether Chinese submarines have been spotted in the Mergue archipelago in the Andaman sea; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect Indian Ocean region from increased Chinese presence ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No confirmed informaion is available with the Government.

(b) The Government constantly monitor all developments that have a bearing on the national security.

Compulsion for Defence Aircraft to Follow Airfield Rules

1025. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that defence aircraft are compelled to follow the rules laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation at all airfields specially at the airports used by Civil Aircraft;

(b) if so, whether these rules are adhered to by the defence pilots as non-adherense to these rules creats high air safety risk, specially in the vicinity of Civil Airports;

(c) the number of cases that are pending for enquiry with his Ministry about non-adherence of these rules; and

(d) whether DGCA are permitted to be party in such enquiries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Air Traffic Services in the IAF airfileds generally conform to the standards and recommended practices of ICAO when they do not conflict with the operational requirements of the IAF.

(b) Defence aircraft, when operating in the vicinity of civil airports, are under the positive control of Air Traffic Control and do not create any air safety risk.

(c) Nil.

(d) Enquiries into incidents/accidents which involve both civil and military aircraft are conducted by the IAF associating a representative of the DGCA.

Inspection of Defence Aircraft by DGCA

1026. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Force maintained airports, which are also used by civil aircraft, are not allowed to be inspected by DGCA to examine the navigational and ground aids at the airfields, which have a great risk to the civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the number of such cases of refusal of requests that have come to the notice of his Ministry during the last two years;

(c) whether his Ministry received any such complaints from Civil Aviation Ministry; and

(d) if so, what is the number of such requests that are pending ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial assistance for Food Processing Plant at Salem, Tamil Nadu

1027. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1031 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th July, 1992 and state :

(a) whether the Central Government are giving any financial aid to Tamil Nadu for its Food Processing Unit in Salem to preserve the Special variety of Mangoes during the season; and

(b) if so, what norms are followed for the grant of such aid of loan ?